NOTE V.

THE SPECIMENS OF THE GENUS TATARE IN THE LEYDEN MUSEUM

BY

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In looking over our specimens belonging to the genus *Tatare*, I had some difficulties in determining them and found that the localities mentioned on the labels of some of them would not agree with what Tristram (Ibis 1883) and Sharpe (Cat. Birds Br. Mus. VII) published about the habitat of the different species.

Our material consists in the following specimens:

1. *Tatare longirostris* (Gm.).

Sitta otatare Less. = *Tatare otaitensis* Less. — *Acrocephalus otatare* Tristram, Ibis 1883, p. 41.

General character: Feathers on upper surface brown with very broad pale yellow edgings, these edgings however very narrow on the head, and broadest on rump and upper tail-coverts. Lower surface sulphur-yellow, tail brown, very broadly tipped and on the inner web narrowly margined with yellowish white. Primary quills rather narrowly, the secondaries very broadly edged and tipped with pale yellow. Bill slender, straight.

	Wing	tail	culmen	tarsus
a. Huaheina (Mus. Godeffroy)	4.1	3.7	1.45	1.3
b. » (» »)	4.05	3.6	1.4	1.3
c. » (» » Coll. Garrett)	4.1	3.5	1.4	1.3
d. Tahiti (» » » »)	4.1	3.8	1.45	1.3
e. » ♂ Verreaux 1867.	3.9	3.4	1.35	1.3
f. » Voyage of the Coquille	4.1	3.6	1.4	1.3
g. Marquesas	4.0	3.5	1.5	1.3

Of these seven specimens the first five are, in every respect, true members of the species *longirostris*, about which nothing particular is to be said. Specimen *f* however has the two outermost tail-feathers and also the fifth on the left side entirely yellow, while on the right side only the second tail-feather is entirely yellow, the outermost one being only very broadly tipped with that color. With the exception of this particularities, which I consider to be a mere case of xanthism, the bird is in every respect a true *T. longirostris* and has nothing to do, as one might believe with regard to the mentioned entirely yellow tail-feathers, with Tristram's *T. mendanae* (Ibis 1883, p. 526, pl. I). To such a case of partial xanthism (resp. albinism) I would also refer the Vienna specimen mentioned by Pelzeln in Ibis 1873, p. 23, in which five of the rectrices on one side are entirely yellowish white, and four on the other side, while one is brown on the basal and yellow on the terminal half, and another statement of xanthism would be indicated by Gmelin who, in the original description of this species, says the tail to be yellow. Moreover the habitat of our bird in question is said to be Tahiti, while *T. mendanae* belongs to the Marquesas group.

Specimen *g*, with the Marquesas mentioned as its habitat, is in every respect a true *T. longirostris* and has nothing to deal with *T. mendanae*. I leave the question open whether the locality »Marquesas" may be wrong or not, though, for my own, I would rather believe the first.

2. *Tatare mendanae* Tristr.

Under this species I propose to range a specimen in our Museum, which we received long ago from the Paris Museum, and which, according to its label, is collected by the Astrolabe-Expedition on the Island of Nuka-hiva, Marquesas.

General character: Above nearly uniform olive green, somewhat darker on the head, strongly tinged with yellow on rump and upper tail-coverts, and with but very slight

indications of the yellow edgings to the feathers, which are so characteristical in the preceding species. The primaries are narrowly, the secondaries and wing-coverts broadly edged with pale yellow, the superciliaries and the whole lower surface are of the same yellow as the underparts of *T. longirostris*, and also the tail is like in the preceding species, having all the rectrices brown, tipped with yellow. The under wing-coverts are yellow, the lower surface of the quills is brown, with whitish edges to the inner webs. The bill seems to me hardly more curved than the average of the preceding species. Wing 3.8; tail 3.45; culmen 1.2; tarsus 1.2. This specimen agrees, in general coloration, sufficiently with the colored plate given by Tristram in Ibis 1883, and also in the measurements as given in the original description, measurements in every respect inferior to those of the preceding species. Compared with Mr. Tristram's original description, however, our specimen shows some rather important differences, and even his description will not entirely agree with the plate annected to it. In the plate the back is nearly uniform green, while in the description that part is said to resemble *T. otatare*, thus to be brown with broad yellow edges to the feathers.

As essential differences are mentioned by Tristram the much smaller size, the slightly incurved bill, the rich lemon-yellow under surface of the wing and, last not least, the entirely yellow two outermost pairs of tail-feathers.

From the short description of our specimen given above, we may see that it differs from that described by Tristram in having the upper surface nearly plainly olive green and the under surface not as yellow as *T. mendanae* is said to be, while the two outermost pairs of tailfeathers are like the rest and not entirely yellow.

In my opinion the essential characters of *T. mendanae* Tristr. which distinguish it at a glance from its congener *T. longirostris* are the considerably inferior size, connected with the rather plain olive green color of the upper sur-

face and perhaps also a slight incurvation of the bill. The more plain lemon-yellow color of the under surface of the wing as well as the entirely yellow outer two pairs of tail-feathers I would rather believe to be an individual case of xanthism, which latter seems to be rather common in the preceding species and which, therefore, will very likely be found in this present species as well.

3. *Tatare luscinia* Q. & G.

Acrocephalus mariannae, Tristr. Ibis 1883, p. 45.
Tatare mariannae, Sharpe, Cat. Birds Br. Mus. VII, p. 528.

General character: Upper surface olivaceous brown, more fulvous on rump and upper tail-coverts, wings and tail earthy brown, both slightly tipped with fulvous, a superciliary stripe, beginning at the nostrils, under wing-coverts and edge of wing as well as the whole lower surface of the body, except the brown thighs and flanks, pale yellow. Bill slender, very sensibly incurved, upper mandible pale brown, lower whitish, feet brown.

Wing 3.3; tail 3.0; culmen 1.4.

One specimen from Guam, Marianne Islands.

It might be of some value to say, perhaps, that all the three above mentioned species have the tail waved with narrow dark cross-bands when seen under certain lights, and these wavings are by no means stronger in *T. luscinia* than they are in the two preceding species, so that a division of the genus *Tatare* into a group with the tail unbanded and another with banded tail, as it is made by Mr. Sharpe in his key to the species of the genus *Tatare*, is rather inconveniant.

Having united the species of *Tatare* to the genus *Acrocephalus*, to which they certainly are very closely allied, Mr. Tristram was obliged to give the present species another name. As long, however, as the genus *Tatare* will be kept separate, and I hope it will, there is no reason whatever to alter the name of *T. luscinia* into *T. mariannae*.

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